

As a parent of two children with special needs I am strongly opposed to HB 5447 (An Act Implementing the recommendations of the auditors of a public accounts concerning private providers of special needs. Both of my children have autism along with other disabilities and I believe implementing this bill would limit my children's ability to access a free appropriate public education. Each child has different issues and to meet FAPE their individualized education program needs to appropriately meet these unique needs. This will be nearly impossible to achieve if payments to service providers are limited. My own children have been able to achieve far more than anyone ever expected when they were little. They are now both headed towards being productive members of society. When my son was 5, we were told he would never speak but with the appropriate interventions by qualified and trained service providers that the school brought in he now speaks and his goal is to go to college. This would never of been possible within a capped budget. His unique needs required a speech therapist who was qualified to meet those needs, something a school speech therapist could never do.

Please do not pass HB 5447. Please help other children like my son reach their fullest potential so they too can go out in the world and become productive members of society.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Delia Thomas
84 South Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
Cel: 860-782-1259